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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1901.

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## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE Denver meeting was notable in several particulars. It was feared that a meeting so far west would be poorly attended, but the registration reached 311, being larger than that of the second Detroit and Madison meetings, and nearly as large as that of the Columbus and fourth Buffalo meetings. The number of representative men of science was proportionally very large, so that the sectional meetings were well attended and were as full of interest as at larger meetings of the Association, more than 200 papers having been presented. In the registration Colorado led with 79 members, while the number of members residing west of the Mississippi reached 162.

The attitude of the citizens of Denver and of Colorado, as indicated by the press and by arrangements for the convenience and entertainment of members, was most happy. This is well indicated by the following extract from an editorial which appeared in the *Denver Post* of August 30 :

It is believed that the visit of the scientists has been one of pleasure, as well as profit, and that if the people of Denver have taken a thorough satisfaction in their presence, they, on the other hand, have found equal satisfaction in their sojourn here. The public is too apt to think that because men devote their lives to the pursuit of scientific inquiries they are apt to be dry, self-absorbed and technical. To such as these actual contact with the members showed them to be surprisingly genial, kindly and sympathetic, while in many of them was found a fine flow of humor flavored with a wit which was none the less attractive because it carried with it no sting. In the nature of things it will be some years before Denver may again hope to entertain them as a body, but every one concerned will feel for them a regard amounting to affection, and when their next session is held here they will get a reception such as no other city could accord them.

The Denver meeting was also notable for several important changes in policy, either adopted or presented for future action. Perhaps the most radical measure under discussion was that which contemplates a change in the time of the annual meetings. The summer meeting has become so fixed a part of the annual program of many members that a change to midwinter will call for considerable readjustment. The movement for a general convocation week following the holiday week has commended itself so generally to universities, however, that the Association has concluded that the experiment deserves a trial. Accordingly, the general committee of the Denver meeting has suggested to its successor at Pittsburg that the annual meeting of 1903 be held in Washington during the week in which January 1 falls. This action simply suggests the experiment of a winter meeting, without any recommendation as to the discontinuance of summer meetings. It may

be that the Association will conclude to hold two meetings a year, which could well be of somewhat different character.

An important amendment, which was adopted, provides for representation in the council from the affiliated societies. By this action, each affiliated society is entitled to elect one member, who is a fellow of the Association, as its representative in the council; and if the society contains more than twenty-five members who are fellows of the Association, it is entitled to two representatives in the council. It seems certain that this representation in the ruling body of the Association will lead to a more compact and efficient organization of the scientific interests of the country.

Another amendment was adopted, which provides that the council shall have power to change either the time or place of meeting. Heretofore, after the adjournment of the general committee, there has been no authority to make such changes upon any contingency. It is understood that this power will be exercised only in such extreme cases that the action will commend itself to all members. For example, the time set for the Denver meeting narrowly escaped a conflict with a national meeting of such magnitude that the Association could not have been accommodated.

Three amendments were presented to be acted upon at the Pittsburg meeting, which look to much greater efficiency in the conduct of the affairs of the Association. One provides for the election by the council each year of three councillors at large, who shall serve for a term of three years. This will add to the council nine members

who have been chosen for their experience and interest in the Association, and who will give greater permanence and efficiency to this very important body.

With the idea of increasing the efficiency of sectional organizations, another amendment proposes that secretaries of sections be elected for a term of five years. Under the present method a secretary serves only long enough to learn his duties. This makes it impossible to obtain that continuity of experienced service which is necessary to develop the interests of the sections. There is no reason why such service is not as essential to a section as it is to the Association in the person of the permanent secretary. The same desire to increase the efficiency of the sectional organizations also prompted the proposed amendment providing that each section shall elect, annually, one fellow as a member of the sectional committee and that he shall serve five years.

Several reports of committees seem to call for comment. The committee on the policy of the Association made three recommendations which were adopted. One was that Section D (Mechanical Science and Engineering) be not discontinued, as had been suggested, since the recent entrance of a large body of engineers into the Association gives promise of a strong section. A second was the organization of the new Section (K) of Physiology and Experimental Medicine, which promises to be one of the strongest sections of the Association. A third was that all abstracts be restricted to 400 words, that they be published in *SCIENCE* and that the titles only shall appear in the published volumes of the *Proceedings*.

The report of the committee on the relationship of the Association and *SCIENCE* was full of interest, since it involved the first official statement of the results of this relationship. It was reported that the fees of new members have paid the expense of sending *SCIENCE* to all members. In this connection it may be well to state that according to the contract with The Macmillan Company the Association pays two dollars a year for each member to whom *SCIENCE* is mailed. These publishers certainly deserve honorable mention for their interest in promoting this movement, for it is estimated that *SCIENCE* will not be in the same financial condition as before the arrangement until the Association contains 4,000 members. There seems to be no question in the minds of members that the relationship with *SCIENCE* has been of very great advantage to the Association.

This leads to a mention of the noteworthy increase in the number of members during the last year, an increase which bears the strongest testimony to the efficiency of the permanent secretary and his immediate associates. For a few years the published lists of members showed a gradual decrease in number, until at the beginning of the last New York meeting there were 1,721 actual members. At the close of the Denver meeting, about a year later, the number of members is approximately 2,800, over 1,150 members having joined within the last year. Such a record is remarkable, but its chief importance lies in the fact that it shows what can be done with proper effort. Conservative members are now putting the number to be expected at 5,000,

while a prominent officer at the Denver meeting thought it should be 10,000. However this may be, the work of the past year has demonstrated clearly that an effort to increase membership, when wisely directed and persistently followed up, is sure to be successful.

The financial side of the Association is also becoming impressive. The report of the permanent secretary for 1900, which does not include the still larger income accruing thus far during 1901, shows receipts amounting to \$12,321.60. Of this amount the sum of \$1,300 was paid over to the treasurer for endowment, and a balance of \$4,741.60 carried over to the next year. To meet the numerous expenses of so large an organization, and also to set aside more than \$1,000 towards the permanent endowment for grants is an achievement for which the administration of the Association is to be congratulated. The same outcome will appear in the next report, for the Council has already set aside \$1,000 from the receipts of 1901 for the permanent fund.

In regard to this permanent fund the treasurer's report showed that it now amounts to over \$11,000, having doubled in seven years. This is gratifying because the income is used for grants to special committees to aid in the prosecution of research. The reports of these committees form an interesting part of the proceedings. With an organized effort for an increase in the number of members, and with the frequent communication among members secured by the relationship with this Journal, there seems to be no reason why the Association should not include in its

membership all those who are engaged or interested in scientific work in this country and thus represent completely the organization of science in America.

The steady progress toward this end is demonstrated by the signal success of the Denver meeting. Heretofore the Association has been an organization expressing chiefly the scientific activities of the eastern states, no previous meeting having been held west of the immediate banks of the Mississippi river. Henceforth the Association is in fact as well as in name an organization expressing the scientific activities of the entire continent. This first Denver meeting, therefore, must be regarded as a noteworthy event in the history of American science.

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*PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSO-  
CIATION FOR THE ADVANCE-  
MENT OF SCIENCE.*

THE first general session of the Denver meeting was called to order in the auditorium of the High School Building at 10 o'clock in the morning of August 26 by the retiring president of the Association, Professor R. S. Woodward, of Columbia University, who introduced the president-elect, Professor Charles S. Minot, of Harvard University. President Minot introduced the Hon. J. B. Grant, president of the local committee, who, after some remarks welcoming the Association to Denver and to Colorado and the reading of a letter from the Governor of the State, introduced the Hon. R. R. Wright, Jr., Mayor of Denver; Mr. Charles F. Wilson, President of the Chamber of Commerce; General Irving Hale and Professor Aaron Gove, Superintendent of Schools, all of whom made addresses of welcome. To these addresses